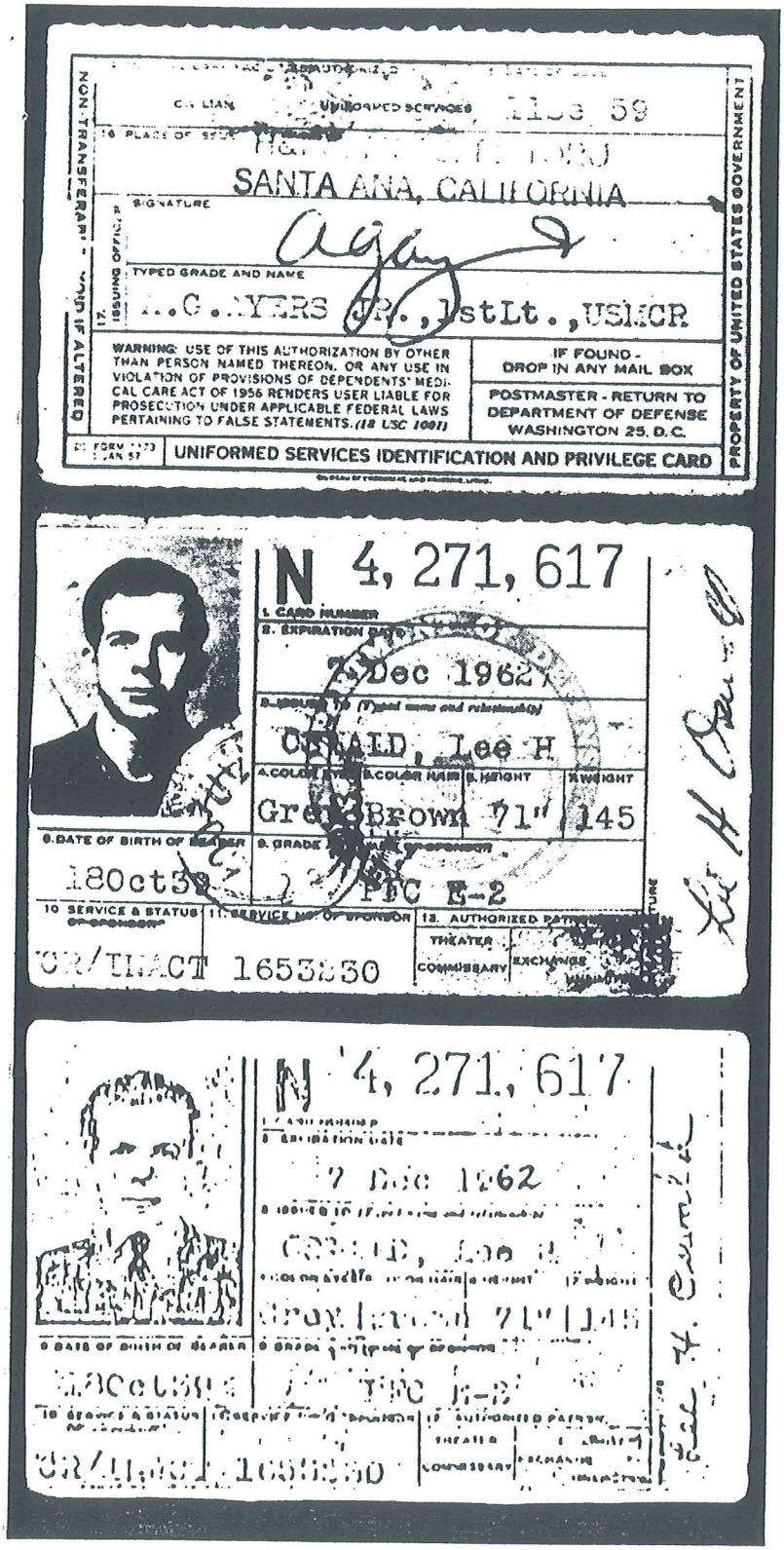
See also Cartonline
THE THIRD DECADE - VOL. 9 #2 - JAN. 1993



Top: Reverse side of Oswald ID card from Bonner's Investigation of a Homicide.
Middle: Front of the Oswald ID card. Note signature, "Minsk" photo, and "postmark".
Bottom: Same card from Nagel in Russell book. Note different photo and signature.

OSWALD ID CARD IS MAJOR LINK TO ASSASSINATION CONSPIRACY

By Jack White

Upon reading the Warren Report in 1964 I was quickly persuaded that Lee Harvey Oswald was a "patsy" framed for the JFK assassination. I soon decided that a thorough understanding of "who Oswald was" would probably lead to the conspirators.

So the major thrust of my investigation for 28 years has been "The Framing of Lee Harvey Oswald", which is the title of the slide/lecture I developed beginning in the late 60s and early 70s and presented to the House Select Committee on Assassinations when the committee was in its formative stages.

Not enough attention has been devoted to Oswald, although several well-researched books by Edward Epstein, Robert Cutler and Philip Melanson have added to our information.

My area of study has been mainly photographic, studying various photos of Oswald and what they might reveal. Parts of my 600-slide presentation have been condensed into two hour-long videos, "Fake" (the forged backyard photos) and "The Many Faces of Lee Harvey Oswald."

Dick Russell's new book "The Man Who Knew Too Much", which shows Oswald's connections to Richard Case Nagel, provides in its photo section an additional clue to the mystery of the Oswald ID card (see illustrations at left).

Let's go back to the beginning. The Warren Report did not publish the ID card. The first time I was aware of it was with the publication of Judy Bonner's "Investigation of a Homicide" in 1969. The front of the card is reproduced on page 229 and the reverse side is on page 236.

Bonner's book is full of photos not seen elsewhere, all apparently obtained from her friend Sgt. Gerald Hill, from whose viewpoint the story is told.

On page 110 Bonner reports Hill's version of the finding of the card. Sgt. Hill and Detective Paul Bentley are in the back seat of the unmarked police car of Officer Bob Carroll. Bentley asks:

"All right. What's your name?

"No answer.

"Bentley reached over and pulled a billfold from the prisoner's left rear pocket. He opened it, took out some cards, and studied them for a moment.

"Are you Lee Harvey Oswald? That's what this card says. Is that your name?

"Still no answer.

"Bentley looked at another card and then said in a somewhat quizzical tone:

"Hey, this one's got a different name. It looks like Hidell. Alek J. Hidell. H-I-D-E-L-L. Same picture, though. He gestured toward the prisoner. Both of the pictures are him."

Obviously the Oswald card is the Department of Defense card pictured on pages 229 and 236. The Hidell card, a bogus Selective Service Classification card, is reproduced on page 234 (see illustration on next page). Bentley mentions that both cards have ID photos, and these are the only ones fitting that description.

Many researchers have never seen these cards, since the Oswald card has appeared only in the Bonner book and three others, as far as I know. (Pubic hairs, yes; important evidence, no!) The other books are "Chief Jesse Curry's JFK Assassination File", and Michael Eddowes' "Krushchev Killed Kennedy" and "The Oswald File". In all except the Bonner book, the Oswald signature is cropped off! Why does a reproduction with the LHO signature exist only in one place? Could it be that the handwriting did not match that of the "patsy"?

Now why is so little official attention paid to these two important pieces of evidence which allegedly first alerted police that the suspect was Oswald/Hidell?

Perhaps the answer is in the reproduction of the card in the Russell book, which is apparently a xerox of the <u>original</u> Oswald card. The cards appear to be identical with two exceptions. The <u>Lee H. Oswald signature</u> is totally different! <u>And</u>...the <u>"Oswald" photograph</u> is a totally different picture of another person <u>wearing a coat and necktie</u>!

Not only that, the photo on Bentley/Hill's "wallet card" <u>is</u> reproduced in the Commission volumes (CE 2892, XXVI, p. 346), where it is identified as a <u>photo of Oswald taken in Minsk.</u> The Commission does not bother to tell us the source of the photo (the ID card?) and how it knew that this was a photo of Oswald in Minsk. So the Commission must have had this photo from some other source, since they connect it with Minsk and not with the ID card. Indeed, had they connected the photo and the card, it would have been immediately apparent that the Minsk photo should not be on a U.S Department of Defense ID card!

Those of you who have seen my video "The Many Faces of Lee Harvey Oswald" know that I have convincingly demonstrated that the <u>Minsk photo is a composite of the faces of two different individuals.</u> You also know that I think the evidence shows that the real Lee Harvey Oswald lent his identity (legend) to a trained Russian-speaking intelligence agent who was sent to the USSR as a "defector". (I presented this information to the House Assassinations committee, but Prof. Blakey refused to let me testify about it!)

I theorize that the "Minsk photo" is a composite of half the face of the real Lee Harvey Oswald, and the other half is of the imposter/"Hidell". That way, used as an ID photo, it looks somewhat like both of them.

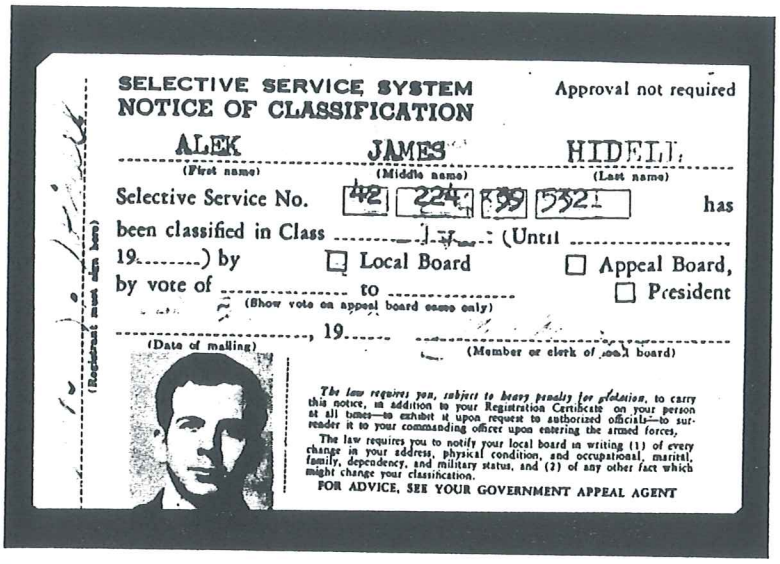
So the original Oswald DoD card had to be refabricated for "Hidell" with the composite photo which looks like both men, and "Hidell" had to sign it as LHO because his handwriting was different. Logically, if the photo was of the real Oswald, why was there any reason to create a bogus card with a different picture and signature if the person using the card was really Oswald?

There are several other interesting things about the DoD card and photo. One of the most obvious is the semi-circular white cutout which covers LHO's left shoulder in the "Minsk" photo on the card, as well as when the picture alone is reproduced in the volumes. This is made more mysterious if one refers to the book "The Penkovsky Papers." This book contains numerous Russian ID photos of various Russian military persons, and all of them have a white semi-circle over the left shoulder for the purpose of applying an authenticating rubber stamp. Was this done deliberately to cast suspicion that Oswald's ID photo was taken by the KGB? Surely U.S. intelligence sources would recognize this "Russian-style" white corner. Or

did they ignore it because they had created the bogus card?

Let's examine these ID cards in more detail.

First, we notice that the date of issue of the card was September 11, 1959, the same day that Oswald received his sudden "dependency discharge". The place of issue was "H&HS, MCAS, SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA". Issuing officer was Lt. A.G. Ayers, Jr. Other information on the back of the card says this is "DD FORM 1173, 1 JAN 57" and is called UNIFORMED SERVICES IDENTIFICATION AND PRIVILEGE CARD. If lost and found, it is to be returned to the Postmaster. It is non-transferable and void if altered, and is property of the U.S. government.


SELECTIVE SERVICE SYSTEM
NOTICE OF CLASSIFICATION
Approval not required
ALEK (First name) JAMES (Middle name) HIDELL (Last name)
Selective Service No. 42 224 99 5521 has been classified in Class 1-A (Until ..... 19.....) by ☐ Local Board ☐ Appeal Board, by vote of ..... to ..... ☐ President
(Show vote on appeal board cases only)
(Date of mailing) ....., 19..... (Member or clerk of each board)
The law requires you, subject to heavy penalty for violation, to carry this notice, in addition to your Registration Certificate on your person at all times—to exhibit it upon request to authorized officials—to surrender it to your commanding officer upon entering the armed forces.
The law requires you to notify your local board in writing (1) of every change in your address, physical condition, and occupational, marital, family, dependency, and military status, and (2) of any other fact which might change your classification.
FOR ADVICE, SEE YOUR GOVERNMENT APPEAL AGENT

The bogus Hidell Selective Service card also has the bogus "Minsk" photo. Genuine cards did not have an ID photo on them. Note the "Hidell" signature at left.

Use by another person is warned to be a crime.

The front of the card has the aforementioned "Minsk" LHO photo affixed, with the left shoulder blanked out. An indistinct circular rubber stamp image incorrectly assumed to be a "postmark" by some researchers overlaps the corner of the photo as well as part of the card. The circle appears to be double stamped. Within the circle are three sets of letters which are <u>not</u> double stamped. "JUL" is stamped at a 45-degree upward angle. "OCT" is stamped at a 45-degree downward angle. "23" (or maybe 28) is stamped at about a 5-degree upward angle, and "1963" is stamped at a 90-degree upward angle. This is similar to a postmark, but clearly is not one (postmarks do not have two dates, and do have an indication of post office making the cancellation. And there is no reason for a postmark (except in the unlikely event of someone dropping a lost card in a mailbox, the post office returning it to the Pentagon, and the Pentagon returning it to Oswald a month before the assassination in time for him to be arrested with it). And if it is a postmark, why is it in the exact location of Russian photo-stamps?

The large black "N" at the top stands for NAVY. I have not verified this officially, but have been told over the years by numerous persons having such DoD cards that "A" was used for Army, "AF" for Air Force, and "M" for Marines (if true, the Oswald card should have an "M"). Others have said that Marine cards had "N" since the Marines were under the Secretary of Navy. (Someone may want to get the official 1963 ruling on this.) The serial number issued to Oswald was 4,271,617. The card was to expire December 7, 1962.

Oswald's eye color is listed as "Grey" (elsewhere shown to be blue, hazel, or grey). Hair color is "Brown". Like all of LHO's Marine medical records and his passports, he is shown to be 71" tall (as we know, the man killed by Jack Ruby was two inches shorter at 69"). His weight was 145 pounds and birthday was October 18, 1939. His grade was PFC E-2. In three places the words "OF SPONSOR" are crossed out. His SERVICE/STATUS is shown to be "MCR/INACT". In other words, he was transferred to the inactive reserve upon discharge. In the card's overall screened background is the logo seal of the Department of Defense. Horizontally the signature on the end is the familiar handwritten signature "Lee H. Oswald".

The selective service classification card (see illustration above) is somewhat more familiar, since the Warren Commission did deal with it (Cadigan Exhibit 15). The WC alleged that Oswald himself created the forged card from his genuine one (real ones had <u>no</u> photo). The commission even produced litho negatives they claimed Oswald created at Jaggers-Chiles-Stovall to counterfeit the card. They claim LHO then typed in "Alek James Hidell".

The significance of this card, of course, is that the rifle was alleged to have been mailed to Oswald's P.O. box under the name Hidell, and if Hidell was authorized to pick up the package from the post office, he might need Hidell identification. No postal record was produced that Oswald/Hidell picked up the gun.

The Houston Post of November 22, 1992 published an excellent article by Dallas researchers and documentary filmmakers Ray and Mary LaFontaine about these ID cards. Among the information they discovered for their story:

—"It's a card officials today say Oswald should not have had...Oswald's military record notes the identity card was issued in accordance with paragraph 30.14.5 PRAM (Personnel Records and Accounting Manual). However, this paragraph pertains only to the issuance of USMC member cards and does not apply to a DD1173. The appropriate card for the discharged Oswald, as stipulated by the PRAM, would have been a 2 MC(RES), reflecting his new status in the Ready Reserve...guidelines limited recipients of such cards largely to military dependents and (emphasis added) civilians who require military identification."

—"In December 1966, when the FBI finally released Oswald's Defense Department identity card to the National Archives, it arrived nearly obliterated by FBI testing, according to archivist Sue McDonough of the Civil Reference Branch. The color, the image, the printing, everything is gone. You couldn't use it to show anything. Challenging the archivist's assertion, FBI spokesman Bill Carter asks 'How does she know it was tested by the FBI? Does she have a report?' 'Who else but the FBI could have done it?' McDonough responds. She adds that there are no pictures of the card in its unobliterated state at the archives." (So apparently the only surviving record of Oswald's complete curious DD 1173 card is the reproduction in Judy Bonner's 1969 book!)

—"It was the 112th Army Intelligence Group at Fort Sam Houston that notified the FBI that he (LHO) was carying a fraudulent Selective Service card. How the military knew this has never been explained...The Warren Commission (published the report of) FBI agent Manning Clements, who listed the contents of Oswald's wallet on the night of November 22, 1963, after the Army intelligence tip. Clements cited both the DoD identity card and the Hidell card."

The LaFontaines obtained the following quotes from Robert Blakey, W.J. Liebeler, and Paul Hoch:

Blakey: (If lost and dropped in a mailbox on Oct. 23) "In that case, Defense would have had to have given it back to Oswald. Interesting."

Liebeler: "This is all new to me. Two things seem odd. The picture identified as Oswald in Minsk, and the postmark on the defense card. The postmark implies the Defense Department either mailed it back to him or gave it to him at some time."
The LaFontaines speculate, "If so, that would have happened less than a month before Kennedy's assassination. Was, as some conspiracy theorists suggest, Oswald working for the U.S. government at the time?"

Hoch: "The HSCA attempted to deal with the possibility that Oswald had been working with the U.S. government after he left the Marines. But as far as we know, they didn't deal with this card. It may have been the missing element."

Entirely too little attention has been paid by official investigations into the question "who was Oswald?" And researchers for the most part have concentrated on other obvious areas. The two areas crying for more research are the Tippit killing and the identity of Oswald. I challenge researchers to find out everything that can be known about Lee Harvey Oswald, and when we know all about him and his intelligence connections, then we'll have the key to unlock the mystery of who killed JFK.

THE UNCOMPOSITED MINSK ID PHOTO: Two Oswalds? Hidell on the left, Lee Harvey Oswald on the right.

Jack White 704 Candlewood Road Fort Worth, TX 76103 817-429-8432